(c) The Ministry of Environment & Forests have already requested the State Governments to reconstitute the respective State Pollution Control Boards with greater scientific input, in order to make them more effective. The State Boards are also being strengthened through financial and technical assistance from the Central Government, for greater effectiveness.

Ecomark Label for Products

836. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will, (he Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the object behind issuing the 'Ecomark label' for products ;

(b) the criteria for issuing such labels ; and

(c) the response of the producers so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The objective behind issuing the 'Ecomark label' is to encourage the manufacture, use and disposal of products in a way that significantly reduces the harm that would otherwise be caused to the environment. Such "Environment Friendly" products will carry an 'Ecomark' label.

(b) The parameters to be considered while determining the criteria for issuing an 'Ecomark' are : —

(i) Production process including source of raw material ;

(ii) Case of natural resources ;

(iii) Likely impact on the environment;

(iv) Energy Conservation in the production of the product ;

(v) Disposal of the product and it's container ;

(vi) Effect and extent of waste arising from the production process ;

(vii) Utilisation of waste and recycled materials :

(viii) Suitability for recycling or packaging ; and

(ix) Biodegradability.

(c) The response of the producers has been good. Representatives of industrial associations and non-Governmental organisations are associated with the deliberations of the Technical Committees and the Steering Committee of the scheme. Comments on the draft criteria notified in specific cases, have also been received from the manufacturers.

Destruction of Rhino Horns in Assam

837. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the PIONEER dated March 23, 1992, to the effect that five hundred and odd pieces of Rhino-horn stored in Assam are likely to be burnt down soon ;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto, especially for preventing the loss of the scarce commodity and poaching of the rare single-horned Rhinos ; and

(c) whether the population of the Rhinos has been dwindling fast; if so, the population of Rhinos as on 1st January, 1990, 1991 and 1992 and the latest figures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Internal as well as international trade in Rhino horns is banned. There is, therefore, no legal way for disposal of Rhino horns except by way of their destruction. However, Central Government have not received any advice from the Government of Assam that they plan to burn their stocks of Rhino-horns. To check poaching of Rhinos, assistance is provided to the States to develop anti-poaching capabilities in Rhino habitats. Besides, penalties have been made stiffer under the

Wild Life (Protection) Act to deter poachers.

(c) The Census figures for 1990 and and 1991 are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pollution of River Yamuna

838. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking has recently contemplated steps to prevent and control pollution of the Yamuna ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have decided to make special allocation for the prevention of Yamuna pollution ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking has prepared a plan to augment the sewage treatment capacity in Delhi from the present 1260 million litre per day (mid.) to 2250 mid. during the 8th Five Year Plan. Out of the above, it is proposed to divert 675 mid. to Gurgaon Canal/Bawana Distributory and 400 mid. for agricultre and horticulture in Delhi. These steps would help in minimising and controlling the pollution of the river Yamuna.

(c) and (d) Delhi Administration has provided Rs. 40 crores for pollution abatement work in Delhi for 1992-93. In addition, a provision of Rs. 10 crores has been made in the year 1992-93 for the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II of which pollution abatement of Yamuna is a major component.

Conversion of Fertile Cultivable Land

839. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VEN KATRAMAN : Will the Minister of EN VIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of th fact that almost half of the fertile land have been converted into real estates an houses were built in all the principal town as well as States, which in the near futur may cause grave concern over supply c food products to the population explosio day by day ; and

(b) if so, what effective and immedial steps Government propose to take in th near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AN; FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a and (b) The information is being collectte and will be laid on the Table of ffifc-Hous

घड़ियालों का निर्यात किया जाना

840. श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने क कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार तमिलनाडु, मध्य प्रदे और उड़ीसा के प्रजनन केन्द्रों में घड़ियालों संख्या में हो रही वृद्धि को देखते हुए उन निर्यात किये जाने पर विचार कर रही है

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, अ

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो घड़ियालों की बढ़ हुई संख्या के बारे में सरकार क्या कार्यव करने का विचार रखती है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मं (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) राज्य सरकारों से अनुरोध किया ग है कि वन्य प्राणियों की आबादी को जीवं रखने के प्रयोजन के लिए मगरमच्छों के कृ रूप से अंडा सेने और बन्दी प्रजनन को सीमि रखा जाए ।